The Builder.

NO. LXXXVIII.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12. 1844.

IN no other parts of modern habitations is there, perhaps, so much failure as in chimneys, which so often refuse to act properly, and cause instead the apartments, which they are intended to render healthful and comfortable, to be clouded, and, consequently, neither comfortable nor salubrious. We venture to say this defect arises most frequently from chimney-shafts being stunted in the endeavour to hide them, which is entirely vain; for if a chimney be externally concealed, surely the appearance of smoke issuing from the roof, as though the edifice were on fire, is a most tasteless mode of management. One, therefore, of the methods to be adopted for the cultivating of true taste, founded upon use, in this branch of domestic architecture, is the invention of lofty graceful patterns of chimney-shafts. It is true there are already in existence many patterns which may be used; these, however, are mostly Gothic or Elizabethan. The grand fault has been the classical-izing, or rather temple-izing, modern domestic dwellings; omitting, as nearly as possible, all that is not to be found in ancient, Grecian, or Roman temples. But as the fashioning of a house without obvious chimneys is about as ridiculous as the fashioning of a statue without a head, or some principal feature, we maintain that chimneys should be so treated as to appear that which they really are, honourable and necessary parts of such structures. Instead, therefore, of perforating the entrance-front of a country house with a multitude of window-openings, by which all that approach the portal can offensively pry into the principal apartments, and be themselves offensively gazed at in their coming,—we on that front make scarcely an opening besides the doorway, creating the principal adornment of the façade by means of two great chimney-stacks, so projecting as to appear picturesque externally, and save loss of internal space. These stacks we surmount by very high detached shafts of some kind of new invention, to which there is no limit. Between these, the principal portal can be carried to any altitude, and may be finished with any degree of decoration. Thus the entrance-front of a house may be made in every respect ornamental, while subserving to every required use. We may be induced hereafter to give some patterns for chimneys. After their first requisite of altitude, their next is solid construction; their third, pure outline; their fourth, freedom from frippery, so that, while shewing fancy, they appear elegant and stable. In moderate dwellings, they may rise six or eight feet above the roof-ridges; and in park mansions they should be carried as high as they can with safety, so as to overcome as far as possible the tendency which high surrounding trees have to cause chimneys to smoke.

We should recommend our correspondents to collect drawings of fine examples of chimneys wherever they are to be found, and to transmit them to us for publication.

Brick-work and terra-cotta are perhaps, on the whole, the best materials for chimney-shafts of ordinary domestic buildings; these may be mingled together, and occasionally some good stone-work may be added; plaster we rarely recommend, as not sufficiently sound. The manufacture of bricks we are convinced may be so improved as to prevent the necessity for much cutting of the material. The chief elements of chimneys which are not absolutely Gothic, are tall shafts, clustered, in rows, disposed cross-wise, sometimes set diagonally, sometimes winged; and of square, hexagonal, octagonal, or four-square chamfered plans; intervening spaces, either plain or arched; cornices, plain, dentiled, or bracketed so as not to hurt the outline; surmounting pots, generally rather low, either round or polygonal, or round with polygonal heads. Among their minor details may be animal heads and armorial charges. Sometimes two or four groups of chimneys may be united by arches, with some kind of balustrade or more fanciful breastwork between them, which may serve to protect the edges of a prospect-flat. Occasionally chimney-shafts may be rusticated, where the general style of the building, to which they are adjuncts, partakes of the same fashion; and in some instances they may be pyramidal, which will render them, if single, of an excellently sound construction; occasionally they may contain arched and other paneling; and the invention of the designer will, at times, fashion them with divers minute peculiarities, without descending into pettiness, or sacrificing good taste; in this branch of decoration all really good architects have succeeded, and it forms the peculiarity of their styles.

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THE NEW METROPOLITAN BUILDING-ACT.

THE Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods and Forests have just issued a notice that they have appointed Sir Robert Smirke, James Pennethorne, Esq., and Thomas Cubitt, Esq., to constitute with the official referees a Board for the examination of persons who may present themselves for the purpose of obtaining certificates of qualification for the office of District Surveyor within the limits of the New Metropolitan Building-Act. All communications for the said examiners are to be addressed to the Registrar of Metropolitan Buildings, at his office, No. 3, Trafalgar-square. The notice is dated the 4th inst., and was inserted in the *London Gazette* last Tuesday.

SPECIAL PREMIUMS CONNECTED WITH ARCHITECTURE, &c.

Offered by the Society of Arts, Adelphi, London.

1. THE Gold Medallion is offered to the candidate who shall produce the best original design for a town and county hall, containing the requisite accommodations for holding assizes, a large room for public meetings, and offices for magistrate's clerk, &c.; to be sent in on or before the third Tuesday in January, 1845. The expense of the building not to exceed 40,000*l*. The drawings to consist of two plans, one or more geometrical elevations, and two sections, drawn to a scale of ½ inch to a foot; also a perspective view.

2. *Acton Premium.*—In the year 1837, a gift of 500*l*. was made to the society by Mrs. Hannah Acton, of Euston-square, for the purpose of enabling the society to offer an annual reward for the promotion of practical carpentry, applicable to civil, naval, and military architecture. In compliance with the terms of the above donation, the society offers a Gold Medallion for the best design for a roof of 100 feet span and 150 feet in length, with the walling necessary for its support. Each design to consist of a plan, and two sections, neatly outlined in Indian ink, and tinted, with a scale annexed; also a model of one bay, or larger portion (as the candidate shall see fit), should accompany the design. The model and drawings to be sent in on or before the third Tuesday in January, 1845; and to become the property of the society if the candidate be successful.

3. The Gold Medallion is offered for the best design for the hull-timbers of a steam-vessel of 1,000 tons burden. Such design to consist either of a model or of a plan, section, and other drawings sufficient to explain the same. The model or drawings to be sent in on or before the third Tuesday in January, 1845; and to become the property of the society if the candidate be successful.

4. For the best original design as a subject for modelling or carving, adapted to furniture or internal decoration, by an operative mechanic in either of these branches of art—the Silver Medal and Five Pounds.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE ON THE ARTS OF CONSTRUCTION IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE.

Delivered on Tuesday last, October 8th,

BY PROFESSOR HOSKING,

At King's College, London.

GENTLEMEN,—The printed paper already in your hands* gives a general statement of the matters to which I shall have to direct the attention of the student, and I believe that every man who has had to learn these things for himself will readily admit that any instruction in them, however imperfect it may be, may become of the greatest practical value, by supplying, as a groundwork for professional study, that which has had but too often to be learned in practice, and what, oftener still, is never learned at all.

We cannot hope here to make young men carpenters or masons, but we hope to make them better qualified to compose, describe, estimate, and direct works of carpentry and masonry than they can be without such assistance as that we offer them. In becoming proficient as a carpenter, a mason, or a smith, a young man is apt to overlook the importance of other handicrafts in favour of that in which he has acquired confidence; but a sound, and indeed a somewhat extensive, practical knowledge of the modes of operating in all the leading crafts, of which the three I have mentioned, together with the bricklayer's craft, are the most prominent, is essential to the civil engineer, who only exists independently of the architect on the one hand, and of the machinist on the other, through his presumed superior practical skill in applying the operations of the carpenter, mason, bricklayer, and smith, in connection with those of the navigator or earthworker and miner.

The late Mr. Telford attained the highest eminence in his profession from the most humble commencement; and late in life—with the experience of more than half a century—he thus recorded his own history and impressions:—"The early part of my life," says Mr. Telford, "was spent in employment as a mason in my native district of Eskdale, in the county of Dumfries. Wherever regular roads were substituted for the old horse-tracks, and wheel-carriages introduced, bridges, numerous, but small, were to be built over the mountain-streams; these, however, furnished considerable employment to the practical mason, and I thus became early experienced in the requisite considerations and details. In such works," Mr. Telford goes on to say—in farm-houses and in the simple parish churches of the Scottish Border—"convenience and usefulness only are studied, yet peculiar advantages are thus afforded to the young practitioner; for, as there is not sufficient employment to produce a division of labour in building, he is under the necessity of making himself ac-

* A syllabus of the course.